



## **FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE Cafcass Board Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **1. Voice of the Child Conference 2017**

FJYPB members met on the 17<sup>th</sup> February to start planning for this year's conference which will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The Board hope to hold the conference at the De Vere building in Canary Wharf, London. The Board have also agreed on the following:

- This year's theme will be 'Equality and Inclusion';
- To seek sponsorship for the conference;
- To work with a drama student to develop an exciting drama workshop as part of the day for the children and young people in attendance.

### **2. Top Tips for professionals working with children and young people**

The FJYPB are developing a range of 'Top Tips' aimed at professionals working with children and young people. Videos are being produced to distribute alongside the 'Top Tips' which will also feature in the updated Cafcass Operating Framework. The following Top Tips have been developed:

- Matthew has developed and filmed his top tips for working with children and young people with Autism.
- Aleesha Ali has developed her top tips for working with children and young people with disabilities.
- Sasha Thompson has helped develop the 'FJYPB TOP TIPS' for working with children and young people.

### **3. Update on membership and recruitment**

The FJYPB have recently recruited 10 new members, all under the age of 16 years old including more male members. The Board now has a total of 53 members ranging from 7 to 25 years old.

New members have been invited to attend an induction session on 1<sup>st</sup> April in London to gain a better understanding of their role, a brief introduction and breakdown of the family justice system and to familiarise them and their parents/carers with our policies and procedures.

#### **4. Siblings Relationships (Summer 2017)**

The FJYPB have been approached by Daniel Monk from the University of London to support the Siblings and Child Law project. The aim of the research is to examine the extent to which and the ways in which sibling relationships are understood and taken into account in private and public legal processes and proceedings. The Nuffield Foundation has now agreed to support the project and the research will now start on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The FJYPB have been asked to be part of the 'Young People's Participation Group' and to be involved in two key meetings (one in August 2017 and one in 2018).

The group will meet twice, once before the interviews with practitioners, to enable young people's views to help inform the questions, and once after the interviews have taken place, at the data analysis stage, in order that their views of the responses of the practitioners can help inform the findings and the most appropriate formats for disseminating them to young people.

The involvement of the FJYPB will try to ensure that the findings are informed by their experiences and their own views about legal processes and decisions that impact on the sibling relationship.

#### **5. Wales**

The FJYPB continue to work with Cafcass Cymru and the Welsh Government. At the last FJYPB Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March, Practice managers from Cafcass Cymru joined the meeting to work with FJYPB to further develop their new logo and children's' feedback/complaint forms.

The FJYPB have been invited by The National Fostering Framework to give a presentation in Wrexham about the office and court reviews we carried out in Wales, how we developed the framework for reviewing courts and Cafcass offices in England and Wales and to discuss the impact of this work.

A meeting is to be held with representatives of the Welsh government to look at how the FJYPB can be utilised more effectively in Wales.

#### **6. E-learning**

The E-learning module being developed for all stakeholders is progressing with support from NIS. The FJYPB are currently drafting three "In My Shoes" scenarios that will include key issues that affect children and young people who experience of family breakdown. The next planning meeting will take place 1 June 2017.

#### **7. Court Reviews**

Following the success of the court reviews in 2015, the Board have been asked by HMCTS to review more family courts areas across DFJ areas in England. We hope to start the second phase of reviews in May 2017 for a year once we have agreement from the President. HMCTS are already responding to some of the learning from the first phase of reviews.

In addition Rebecca Wagstaff from HMCTS is also looking specifically at ways in which they can improve Children & Young Person's facilities in HMCTS buildings. Rebecca will be meeting with some FJYPB members at the Bloomsbury office to gain a better understanding of what makes a good family room which is fit for children and young people.

#### **8. Family Justice Council – Child Protection Mediation**

The Family Justice Council (FJC) are running a new project looking at the use of child protection mediation (CPM) in pre- and post- proceedings. A working group has been set up, led by Judge Andrew Greensmith (District Judge member of the FJC), which has identified the need to develop and implement a pilot scheme for CPM.

As part of this, it will consider child inclusive mediation. The FJYPB have been invited to attend the first meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March to share and represent the views of young people and children.

#### **Family Justice Young People's Board**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2017